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REISSUE LITIGATION

MARKED-UP COLUMN 3, PARAGRAPHS 2, 3 and 4

Supply location 30 represents a food preparation area (the first location) for supplying a number of consumer sites (the second location) 31, 32, 33 which are in this case hospitals which are some distance from each other and from supply location 30. The supply location 30 receives raw materials and supplies by path [W] RM. At the supply location 30 food is prepared, cooled and plated and individual amounts for an individual consumer at one of the consumer sites are placed on a tray. Trays for delivery to a particular consumer location 31 are placed on one or more racks 15 as described in relation to FIG. 1. The racked arrays are then loaded into a refrigerated transfer vehicle 35 whereby the food is transferred to location 31. The transfer vehicle 35 is equipped with a load space incorporating suitable cooling means to ensure that trays of food in each rack does not exceed predetermined limits.

The transfer vehicle 35 then delivers along path S the racked arrays bearing the food to consumer site 31. At an intermediate location 34 at the site each racked array is unloaded from the transfer vehicle 35 and loaded into a regeneration trolley[s] 11 of the type described in connection with FIG. 1. The loaded trolley 11 is then moved closer to the location of the eventual consumers of the contents of the trolley 11. The trolley 11 is connected to a power supply and is then powered up to enable the food content of the racked array to be automatically regenerated according to a predetermined program held in the control unit of the trolley 11. Once regeneration has been completed the trolley 11 is opened and the trays and their contents distributed to the recipients.

Once consumption of the food has been completed the trays are returned to the racks 15 in the trolley 11. The trolley 11 is then transferred to the intermediate location 34 at the consumer site where the racks 15 loaded with the now used trays are transferred from the trolley 11 into a transfer vehicle 35 which returns the used trays and utensils to the supply location 30 for cleaning and reloading.

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- 2 -

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